EQIP Ranking Criteria **January 2006**

Capitol Conservation District

Name: _____ Location: _____ Grazing Land: _____

Farm Number: _____ Tract: _____ Animal Waste: _____

Crop Land:

Points can only be earned when there is an environmental concern to be addressed by the implementation of conservation practices that meet NRCS standards an specifications. If the applicant is already doing the conservation practice that eliminates an environmental concern, then points will not be assigned. Points will be awarded as written on the worksheet and not arbitrarily adjusted.

A. Is the land used for the production of food and/or fiber for human consumption?	Yes	No
B: Are there existing environmental concerns caused by agriculture or livestock production?	Yes	No
C. What is the predominant livestock type? dairy cattle beef cattle sheep horses goats _____		

RESOURCE **Resource Concern** - *Issue* Treatment	COMMON PRACTICES	POINTS	POINTS EARNED
SOIL			
Erosion - Sheet and Rill *Soil cover is not adequate.*			
Class 7 grassland or critically eroding fields will be converted to forestland.	342, 490, 391, 612, 380, 585	10	
Livestock will be excluded from woodland.	382	10	
Division fencing will be established to aid in plant regrowth.	382	5	
Erosion - Classic or Ephemeral Gullies *Surface water movement causes soil instability.*			
Severely eroded areas will be stabilized.	342, 575, 328, 330, 362, 561, 528, 558, 728, 580, 584	5	
Condition - Organic Matter Depletion *Soil quality is degraded due to management activities.*			
Crop management creates a positive Soil Condition Index.	328, 340, 634, 590, 528, 329A, 585	10	
Animal waste supplies the majority of nutrient requirements for applicable fields.	590, 634, 633	2	
WATER			
Quality - Excess Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water *Animal waste is not utilized as a resource, according to a CNMP.*			
Winter feeding area will be relocated.	561	20	
Waste storage will be provided on an existing feeding area.	313	20	
Waste storage will be provided for year round feeding area.	359, 313	45	
Divide herd and establish a separate and distinct feeding area.	561	10	
Surface water will be intercepted before it reaches a feeding area.	362, 558	4	
Manure samples will be analyzed and application records kept.	633, 748	1	
A CNMP will be developed and applied for an established feeding area.	590, 633, 748	1	
Manure will be applied through an irrigation system.	634	20	
Quality - Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water or Ground Water *Safe areas are not designated for proper handling, mixing, and storage of agri-chemicals.*			
An agri-chemical handling facility will be installed.	702	10	
Quality - Excessive Suspended Sediment in Surface Water *Sediment and organics are detached by livestock, equipment or inadequate cover and carried into waterbodies.*			
Stream crossings will be established.	728	5	
Buffer zones will be established between water resources and cropland, pasture, or feeding areas.	393, 391, 386, 380	5	
Heavily used areas surrounding facilities will be stabilized.	575, 561	2	
Quantity - Excessive Subsurface Water *Drainage on previously drained fields is deteriorating, causing yields to decrease.*			
Subsurface drainage will be managed.	606	5	
AIR			
Quality - Objectionable Odor *Animal waste and concentrated feeding areas produce offensive odors.*			
Vegetative screenings will be established adjacent to concentrated feeding areas and/or animal waste facilities.	380	5	
Quality - Chemical Drift *Materials, applied for pest control, drift causing contamination and injury to non-targeted areas.*			
Vegetative buffers will be used to limit the effects of drift.	490, 612, 380	5	

PLANTS			
Condition - Productivity, Health and Vigor			
Plant yields, quality, and soil cover are lower than site potential and require higher management levels.			
Prescribed Grazing cycle ≥ 9 days.	528	5	
Prescribed Grazing cycle of 5 - 8 days.	528	10	
Prescribed Grazing cycle of ≤ 4 days.	528	15	
A pest management plan will be applied for cropland acres and records kept to document.	595, 748	5	
Condition - Forage Quality and Palatability			
Grassland management practices are needed to increase nutritive value or palatability.			
Higher quality forages will be planted.	512, 528	5	
Legumes will be frost seeded in pastures.	512	5	
Warm season grasses will be established.	512	5	
A stockpiling or an aftermath grazing system will be utilized to extend the grazing season and supply records to NRCS.	528	1	
Pest Management will be utilized to control noxious and invasive weeds.	595, 528	5	
Soil Amendments will be applied to grassland according to a Nutrient Management Plan.	590, 528	5	
ANIMAL			
Fish and Wildlife - Threatened and Endangered Species: Declining Species, Species of Concern			
The Pink Mucket Pearly Mussel inhabits the Upper Kanawha River and is listed as T&E.			
Protect sensitive habitat by establishing conservation measures in the Upper Kanawha River Drainage (HUC 05050006) and the Elk River Drainage (HUC 05050007) in Kanawha County. (Farm must drain directly into the Upper Kanawha River or the Elk River.)		1	
Domestic Animal - Inadequate Stock Water			
Adequate quality water sources are not developed.			
Livestock water will be established.	378, 533, 574, 614, 642, 636, 516	10	
HUMAN			
Econimics - Cost Effectiveness			
Implementing conservation may not be cost effective.			
EQIP will be used for the first time to help make conservation more cost effective.		1	
Contract addresses 4 or more SWAPA+H areas.		3	
Are all structural practices to be planned in the first or second year of contract.		5	
	Total Points		0

Approved 1/30/2006